

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Entry of the amendments to the claims is requested, as the amendments place the application in clear condition for allowance or alternatively place the claims in better form for appeal. Specifically, the claims are amended to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, to cancel withdrawn claims, and to include features recited in other independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended, and claims 3-5, 8-10, 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Without conceding to the propriety of the rejection, the claims are amended to remove the recitations of "without storing." It is therefore requested that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,754,705 to Okino. It is requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and the claims allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to an image processor. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites a switch configured to divide image data into $m \times n$ pixels, having n lines with m pixels per one line and to transfer each one of the n lines of image data to a predetermined destination. A control unit is configured to control the switch to directly transfer $(n-1)$ lines of the n lines of the image data to $(n-1)$ number of memories, and a remaining one line of the n lines of the image data directly to a compression unit.

It is submitted that Okino does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of a control unit configured to control a switch, which divides image data, to directly transfer (n-1) lines of n lines of image data to (n-1) number of memories, as recited in independent claim 1.

Initially, the Office Action seems to concede on page 4, last two lines, that Okino does not disclose the claimed control unit.

The Office Action then seems to assert on pages 4-5, that Okino discloses transferring (n-1) lines of n lines of image data to (n-1) number of memories, and that it would be obvious to use a control unit to control a switch to so-transfer the (n-1) lines of the n lines of the image data. However, it is submitted that because Okino fails to disclose controlling a switch, which divides image data, to directly transfer (n-1) lines of n lines of image data to (n-1) number of memories, the proposed modification of Okino to include a control unit still does not teach or suggest the claimed features recited in independent claim 1.

Although the Office Action relies on column 3, lines 30-50, as disclosing the above-discussed claimed features of transferring image data to memories, it is submitted that while the referenced portion of Okino states that "data of the first through seventh column is first stored in the buffer memory before being supplied to the compression processor," Okino does not depict or describe controlling a switch that divides image data to directly transfer lines of image data to memories. Restated, because of the lack of detail with which Okino describes portions of the invention shown in Figures 2a and 2b, on which the Office Action relies, it is submitted that it simply cannot be determined whether Okino describes directly transferring (i.e., transferring without an intervening component) of divided image data between a switch that divides the image data and memories. It is further submitted that the relevance of the remarks in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action is not understood. These remarks appear to be directed to a different invention than that relied upon in the rejection of

the claims, and discuss components of Okino that are not relied upon in the rejections of the claims.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn. The allowance of independent claim 1 is therefore requested.

Independent claims 6 and 11 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed with respect to independent claim 1. Thus, the allowance of independent claims 6 and 11 is requested.

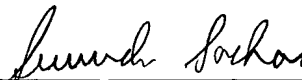
Claims 2 and 7 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 6 from which they depend, as well as for their own features, particularly in combination with the features recited in the independent claims. The allowance of dependent claims 2 and 7 is therefore requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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